

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

New Kamiah Supervisor's Office Project

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is seeking comments on the proposal to construct a new Supervisor's Office building and associated improvements on the Kamiah Administrative Site in Kamiah, Idaho. The Proposed Action for Scoping document available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56256> provides a summary of the existing conditions and the details of the actions being proposed. The Forest Service is requesting feedback from you on the project during this 30-day comment period to identify any potential issues to implementing this project.

The Kamiah Supervisor's Office is located within the city limits of Kamiah, Idaho. Originally built in the 1960s, the existing buildings/office space do not meet the current needs of the Forest:

- 1) The buildings do not provide enough space to house all of the SO employees. Currently, SO employees are scattered among five offices in three different communities;
- 2) The buildings do not comply with the Architectural Barriers Act along with other building codes.
- 3) The scattered buildings and inadequate information technology infrastructure repress exchange of ideas and make communication and coordination challenging.

To address these needs the Forests are proposing to consolidate the Supervisor's Office in a new single building. The benefits would be:

- 1) Housing all SO employees in a single building will provide a more cohesive work force and ensure effective communication;
- 2) Conforming with the Architectural Barriers Act will allow employees and the public, regardless of disability, the same opportunity and accessibility to interact;
- 3) Complying with modern International building codes will ensure the health and safety of employees; and
- 4) A single SO building incorporating energy-saving materials and construction methods will be more energy efficient.

The New Kamiah Supervisor's Office Project will be completed through an Environmental Assessment which is subject to the Pre-Decisional Administrative Review Process (referred to as the "objection process") pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subpart A. Objections will only be accepted from those who have submitted written comments specific to the proposed project during scoping or other public involvement opportunity where written comments are requested by the responsible official (36 CFR 218.5). **While comments on projects are accepted at any time during the process, the Decision Maker does not anticipate providing an additional request for written comments other than this scoping period for this project.**

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in the *Lewiston Tribune* newspaper (Lewiston, Idaho). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.

Hardcopy written comments must be mailed or hand-delivered to Forest Supervisor's Office, 903 3rd Street, Kamiah, ID 83536. The office business hours for hand-delivered comments are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Electronic comments must be sent to: comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us. Please include **New Kamiah Supervisor's Office** in the subject line. Acceptable formats for electronic submission are text or html email, Adobe portable document format (PDF), and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications (e.g. Word). For electronically mailed comments, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as

confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in §218.25(a)(3). Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

If you have questions regarding the Project, please contact the Project Lead, Travis Mechling (phone 208-476-8210, email travis.mechling@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.